

THE
MONTHLY



GULL
BULLETIN

VOLUME 25

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., FEBRUARY, 1943

NUMBER 2

Willie Wagtail of Guadalcanal

There is a very common and friendly little bird at Guadalcanal, which, in the Australian literature, is called variously Willie Wagtail, Black-and-white Fantail, Shepherd's Companion, and Morning Bird. Its scientific name is *Rhipidura leucophrys*, which means literally white-browed fan-tail. It is a fly-catcher with a shiney blue-black head, breast, sides, back, wings, and tail, a white belly and a prominent white line over the eye. Its tail is long and very much rounded at the tip. It sings with a clear but jerky whistle, usually in the early morning and on moonlight nights. It seems to enjoy the company of people, and the thicker the marines, the happier is Willie Wagtail. This is the only bird, with the exception of the large conspicuous ones such as cockatoos, that any of the military people ever notice or ask about. This is due primarily to its habit of disporting on low limbs and on the ground almost in front of people's feet. Willie is always up to some trick, and is constantly drooping and partially lowering his wings, fanning his tail, and wagging it, not only up and down, but from side to side. Two or three of these fantails will get together and at close range bump each other with their tails. In fact, the marines have christened it the "Bumps-a-Daisy Bird". It often picks up insects on the ground. On one occasion I saw it grab a large insect with both feet and fly with it in its claws to a higher perch, as an osprey would do. I found its nest in October, a neat cup of bark strips and cobweb on a horizontal limb over a pool in the Lunga River. While the birds were still incubating the eggs, a bomb-hit occurred about seventy-five feet away and destroyed the nest completely. In general, Willie Wagtail seems to like the noise and confusion of the lines and seeks the company of men, even though I can see no benefit which he derives from the contact, as he wants from humankind neither food, nesting sites, nor shelter.

—Commander T. E. Reynolds, U.S.N.R.

December, 1942

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Exit the Hutchin's Goose

So much confusion has arisen from the unfortunate mix-up in the nomenclature of the Canada Goose that I feel it may be helpful at this time to make note of the present status of the various divisions in this species.

A concise presentation of the problem is to be found in that refreshing new work, *THE DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS OF NORTH AMERICA* by F. H. Kortright, pp. 81-82. However, since this work is so new, I believe that **many will not be familiar** with it as yet and that a sketchy summation of the main features of the problem might well be given here.

There are five recognized subspecies of *Branta canadensis*. These are: (1) Common Canada Goose, *B. c. canadensis*; (2) Western Canada Goose, *B. c. occidentalis*; (3) Lesser Canada Goose, *B. c. leucopareia*; (4) Richardson Goose, *B. c. hutchinsi*; (5) Cackling Goose, *B. c. minima*. Four of these are illustrated in color in 1938 National Geographic BOOK OF BIRDS on page 104, volume 1. All are shown in color in Kortright's book mentioned above, page 393. The main confusion in this group of birds has been in the application of the name, Hutchin's. Sir John Richardson first described the Hutchin's Goose in 1831 but for some strange reason this bird was subsequently entirely overlooked by naturalists, and the name was erroneously applied to the larger western bird now known as the Lesser Canada Goose. This bird bore the name for years until in the 1931 A.O.U. Check-list an attempt was made to straighten out the situation and to return the name Hutchin's to the proper bird. This was done and the Lesser Canada Goose came into being. It is now felt that much confusion will yet arise from the continued use of the name Hutchin's since it had been applied incorrectly for so many years to the wrong subspecies. Therefore it is now proposed, and will very likely be accepted, that the Hutchin's Goose be called the Richardson Goose in honor of its discoverer.

Another less important point of confusion lies in the application of the vernacular name White-cheeked Goose to a maritime westerner when at the same time there is another subspecies whose scientific name means 'white-cheeked'. It would be more logical to call the present White-cheeked Goose the Western Canada Goose since it is entirely western in range and the interpretation of its scientific name, *occidentalis*, means 'western'. This would serve to eliminate possible confusion arising from the scientific name of the Lesser Canada Goose which is *leucopareia* and means 'white-cheeked'.

Both these changes are being considered for adoption in the forthcoming edition of the A.O.U. Check-list and will very likely be accepted.

—Gordon L. Bolander

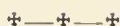
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Christmas Bird Census — Oakland, 1942

OAKLAND, CALIF. (Mills College and near vicinity, Leona Heights, Sequoia Park, area adjacent to Skyline Boulevard south of Sequoia Park, Lake Merritt and Bay Farm Island). Dec. 27, 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Partly cloudy all day, with haze; light south wind; temp. 44° at start, 57° at return. Four observers working in two groups as follows: party one, 2 observers, 8¼ hours, 20 miles; party two, 2 observers, 4 hours, 24 miles. Total miles afoot 15; total miles by automobile 29. Total hours afoot 7¾; total hours by automobile 4½. Common Loon 1; Horned Grebe 8; Eared Grebe 55; Western Grebe 5; Pied-bill Grebe 18; Farallon Cormorant 16; Great Blue Heron 1; American Egret 1; Mallard 77; Baldpate 350; Pintail 370; Shoveller 1; Redhead 2; Canvas-back 1575; Scaup 200; American Golden-eye 21; Bufflehead 2; Surf Scoter 150; Ruddy Duck 75; Cooper's Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 8; Marsh Hawk 1; Sparrow Hawk 7; California Quail 25; California Clapper Rail 1; Coot 355; Snowy Plover 4; Semipalmated Plover 1; Killdeer 1; Black-bellied Plover 14; Long-billed Curlew 1; Willet 110; Greater Yellow-legs 1; Least Sandpiper 95; Red-backed Sandpiper 155; Western Sandpiper 100; Marbled Godwit 75; Sanderling 58; Glaucous-winged Gull 20; Western Gull 6; Herring Gull 5; California Gull 24; Ring-billed Gull 5; Short-billed Gull 1; Bonaparte's Gull 140; Forster's Tern 11; Road-runner 1; Burrowing Owl 1; Anna's Hummingbird 9; Red-shafted Flicker 5; Black Phoebe 1; Say's Phoebe 1; Horned Lark 7; Steller's Jay 2; California Jay 8; Plain Titmouse 2; Bush-tit 55; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; Creeper 4; Wren-tit 7; Winter Wren 1; Bewick's Wren 4; Mockingbird 2; California Thrasher 1; Robin 40; Varied Thrush 15; Hermit Thrush 10; Western Bluebird 10; Western Gnatcatcher 2; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 12; American Pipit 3; Cedar Waxwing 63; California Shrike 3; Hutton's Vireo 2; Myrtle Warbler 3; Audubon's Warbler 25; Townsend's Warbler 5; Yellow-

throat 1; English Sparrow 33; Western Meadowlark 21; Red-wing 13; Brewer's Blackbird 221; California Purple Finch 3; House Finch 8; Pine Siskin 9; Willow Goldfinch 1; Green-backed Goldfinch 6; Spotted Towhee 12; Brown Towhee 20; Savannah Sparrow 3; Rufous-crowned Sparrow 3; Slate-colored Junco 1; Oregon Junco 125; White-crowned Sparrow 97; Golden-crowned Sparrow 65; Fox Sparrow 25; Lincoln's Sparrow 7; Song Sparrow 16; Total 98 species; 5149 (est.) individuals.

H. W. Carriger, Lorraine Carriger
Leroy Jensen, Milton Seibert



The President's Report for 1942

1942 was the Association's Twenty-fifth Anniversary. We began the year as the dark clouds of war were gathering, the last meeting of 1941 having been cancelled on account of blackouts. Many last minute changes had to be made in nominated and elected officers, as the war encroached on the personal liberties of the members. In April a resolution was passed to authorize the Board of Directors to act on these many changes. A quarter of the year was passed when a second vice-president, and comparatively new member, found herself in the presidential chair very much scared at the responsibilities thrust upon her. This fright was soon dispelled by the excellent cooperation of the more experienced officers, directors and members who rallied round at this time of need. Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds, the newly appointed editor of THE GULL generously consented to continue the office in spite of added responsibilities in her own affairs. Mrs. Kelly gave much time and advice on the activities of the association. Miss Blake carried on with her field trip chairmanship and Miss Werner with the publicity.

Mrs. Newhall, Mrs. Reynolds and Mrs. Sheldon started a new field of endeavor for the association in taking their beautiful motion pictures to orphanages and other institutions.

The society cooperated with the Save-the Redwoods League to protest the violation of the purposes for which the State Park at Point Lobos in Monterey county was founded. Later the Park was closed to the public and taken over by the Army.

A few of our members helped with the banding of the ducks at Lake Merritt Bird Sanctuary in Oakland. The Association protested the removal of a boom from the east end of the Lake where the ducks had been protected from the boating activities for so many years.

Mrs. Kelly's list of "Reference Books for Those Far Afield" published in the December issue of THE GULL was widely distributed to Service men.

Our meetings have continued without a break in spite of the difficult transportation problem. Bay area scientists and speakers have given generously of their time and effort for our benefit. We are very fortunate to have so many talented people in our own district.

The field trips have been carried on. Military restriction has closed some of our regularly visited areas; the rest have been continued so that the records are unbroken as far as possible. New and interesting places have been found and we hope will be continued after the War. May I take this opportunity to thank members and friends who have acted as leaders. Well conducted, interesting field trips should be one of the Association's main accomplishments.

The membership has been increased by twenty-five during the year, a most encouraging sign in these times.

The Treasurer's report shows the Association's finances are good and we have been able to contribute our small share to the war effort.

It has been a pleasure to serve the society and may the next twenty-five years be as successful as the last.

Respectfully submitted
Enid K. Austin
President

Treasurer's Report for 1942

Commercial account:

Balance on hand January 3, 1942	\$ 83.76
Cash on hand; Birds of Marin County	1.50

Receipts:

Dues for 1942:

a) Adult	\$274.00
Over-payment of dues	6.50
b) Junior	12.00
Over-payment of dues	1.50
c) Subscription to the Gull	4.00

Dues for 1943:

a) Adult	23.00
b) Junior	3.00
Birds of Marin County (9 copies)	2.25

Total

\$411.51

Expenditures:

Publishing The Gull (with extras and corrections)	\$210.65
Stamped envelopes	33.92
Taxes	7.34
Refund on overpayment of dues	8.00
Dues National Audubon Society	10.00
Janitor's Christmas gift	10.00
Lecture expenses	16.00
Letterheads, membership cards, etc.	36.77
Miscellaneous expenses	9.93

342.61

Balance in commercial account

\$ 68.90

\$411.51

Savings Account:

Balance on hand January 1, 1943	\$799.46
Interest for 1942	12.04

\$811.50

Total Accounts:

Commercial Account	\$ 68.90
Savings account	811.50

\$880.40

January 14, 1943

Signed
Ivander MacIver
Treasurer

January Field Trip

The January field trip was held this year on the seventeenth. The grounds of the University of California in Berkeley were first surveyed in the morning and the balance of the day was spent most profitably at the Berkeley Aquatic Park.

We again enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Myer, who generously provided the entire group with hot beverages at our noon-time gathering in their home. The hot drinks were especially appreciated as there had been a heavy frost in the morning and low temperatures prevailed throughout the day. We were further entertained by the excellent Kodachrome slides of Mr. Charles A. Bryant, a former President of the Association.

No outstanding observation was recorded during the day but the compiled list of sixty-four species is a good one for the area at this season of the year and a few of the less well known species were seen to good advantage by the group. The opportunity to view seven different species of gulls side by side at the Aquatic Park was perhaps the high-light of the day.

Of the sixty-four species noted, thirty-two were found only on the campus grounds, twenty-six only at the Aquatic Park or its vicinity, while the remaining six species were found in both localities.

Birds on the campus only:

Sharp-shinned Hawk	Bewick Wren	Townsend Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	Robin	California Purple Finch
California Quail	Varied Thrush	Pine Siskin
Anna Hummingbird	Hermit Thrush	Green-backed Goldfinch
Red-shafted Flicker	Western Bluebird	Spotted Towhee
Crested Jay	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Brown Towhee
California Jay	American Pipit	Oregon Junco
Plain Titmouse	Cedar Waxwing	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Bush-tit	Hutton Vireo	Fox Sparrow
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Myrtle Warbler	Song Sparrow
Winter Wren	Audubon Warbler	

Birds only at Aquatic Park or its vicinity:

Eared Grebe	Canvas-back	Sanderling
Western Grebe	Lesser Scaup Duck	Glaucous-winged Gull
Pied-billed Grebe	American Golden-eye	Western Gull
Double-crested Cormorant	White-winged Scoter	Herring Gull
Great Blue Heron	Surf Scoter	California Gull
American Egret	Ruddy Duck	Ring-billed Gull
Mallard	Red-breasted Merganser	Short-billed Gull
Baldpate	Willet	Bonaparte Gull
Pintail		Belted Kingfisher

Birds seen in both areas: Sparrow Hawk, Killdeer, Black Phoebe, English Sparrow, Linnett, White-crowned Sparrow.

The trip was well attended with thirty-six members and ten guests participating. I am appreciative of the aid rendered by Mrs. Kelly and Mr. Harwell who assumed leadership of parts of the group during the day in order that we might all have an opportunity for better observations. It also made possible a more thorough covering of the area and was undoubtedly responsible for the appearance on our list of several birds that might otherwise have been missed.

—Gordon Bolander, Leader

Audubon Notes

February Meeting: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 11th, at 8 p.m. in the Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets, San Francisco.

Mrs. Junea W. Kelly will speak on "Shore Birds", and will illustrate her lecture with slides.

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February Field Trip will be taken on Sunday, February 14th, to Bay View Park and vicinity in San Francisco. Members and friends will take street-car No. 15 on Third Street at Market, and get off at Paul and Third Streets. This takes about twenty-five minutes. Those driving will take Highway 101 or Third Street in a southerly direction to Third and Paul Streets. The group will meet at 9:30 a.m. Bring luncheon. Members may bring guests. Leader: Bert Harwell.

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January Meeting: The 304th regular meeting was held on the 14th in the Assembly Room of the San Francisco Public Library. In the absence of President Mrs. Harold C. Austin, Miss Selma Werner opened the meeting and turned over the chair to Mr. Joseph J. Webb.

Annual reports were read by the treasurer, Miss Ivander MacIver, field-trip chairman, Miss Frances J. Blake, and the president's report was read by Mr. Webb. The officers and directors listed in the January Gull were elected to office.

Mr. Walter W. Bradley showed kodachrome slides of our Mt. Diablo anniversary trip as well as of beautiful floral scenes and magnificent sunsets.

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The following have been elected to membership: Miss Ruth Elwonger, Berkeley; Mrs. Sadie Bozant, Mr. Albert J. Kwasky, San Francisco; and Mr. Gerald E. Sedgwick, Danbury, N. H.

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Observations

The following observations have been reported:

1 Wood Duck, Fine Arts Pool, Oct. 11, 1942 (first record for this pool); 1 Snow Goose, Lake Merced, Jan. 1; 3 female Buffleheads, Lake Merced, Jan. 1 and 9; 1 male Bufflehead, Mallard Lake, Golden Gate Park, Jan. 9. Mrs. Laura Stephens.

1 Mockingbird, 5th and J Sts., San Rafael, Jan. 3, 1 male Western Tanager, Jan. 9, 10, and 11, Miramar Park, San Rafael. Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Ensign.

Female Harris Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Dec. 14, male Harris Jan. 1, 89 Elm St., San Anselmo; American Egrets feeding at Meadowsweet Dairy, Jan. 14. Mrs. Otis Smith.

Varied Thrush, Dec. 20 and Jan. 3, El Sobrante, Contra Costa Co., Walter W. Bradley.

2 Buffleheads, 4 Redheads, 12 Wood Ducks, Lake Merritt, Jan. 13. Mrs. Dorothy D. Sheldon.

100-plus Avocets, Fernside, Alameda, Jan. 13. Junea W. Kelly.

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Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....	Mrs. Harold C. Austin.....	541 Boulevard Way, Piedmont
Corresponding Secretary..	Mr. Joseph J. Webb.....	519 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer.....	Miss Ivander MacIver.....	2414 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley
Editor.....	Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds.....	140 Estates Drive, Piedmont

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 p.m.

Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets, San Francisco.

Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year.

Student memberships, \$1.50 per year.

Life memberships, \$50.00.

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.